



AUGUST 2011

HARRIS' NEWS

"NEWS WORTH KNOWING"

***PART III-VOTER ID INFORMATION SESSION
AT AFRICAN WORLD FESTIVAL SATURDAY,
AUGUST 6TH NOON-6PM***

**IN THIS EDITION OF HARRIS' NEWS
YOU WILL FIND:**

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**Milwaukee County Board
Committees**

Economic & Community
Development
Health & Human Needs
Transportation, Public Works,
& Transit

Community Memberships

Youth Sports Authority Board
Milwaukee Child Welfare
Partnership Council

Appointed Committees

Wisconsin Counties
Association Constitution
Committee
National Association of Young
Black Elected Officials
(NAYBEO) Chairwoman of
Health and Human Service
Committee

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NEIGHBORS TEACHING NEIGHBORS

The YMCA is implementing a new program, Neighbors Teaching Neighbors (NTN), this fall. NTN brings the talents of individuals to the communities where they live and /or work. This could include everything from cooking and exercise to meditation and financial literacy. The program would be piloted on the Y's Urban Campus (Downtown, Parklawn, Northside, and John C. Cudahy YMCAs).

NTN participants will learn new skills, form valuable relationships, and enrich the community where they live. Class topics are limited only by our collective imagination that reflects the backgrounds, experiences and talents of our community. If you are interested and want to learn more, please see the attached proposal form, survey and informational sheet with contact information.



VOTER ID LAW: A THORN IN THE SIDE

The State has waged a war on Wisconsin Voters by passing the Voter ID Law. In 2012, all voters will have to present a photo ID in order to cast their ballot at the polls. As you know, I have vehemently opposed this law and believe it is another barrier that further disenfranchises citizens of their right to make their voices heard.

Wisconsin Act 23 is one of the most restrictive voter ID laws in the country. It strips away a voter's right to have a corroborating witness for proof of residency, changes residency requirements from 10 days to 28 days, and requires each voter to sign a poll log. These are just a few of the changes. Beware. Other requirements are changing as the Department of Motor Vehicles works through the kinks.

FREE VOTER ID

On the contrary, the Voter ID law has a provision that will allow a voter to request a free ID for the purpose of voting. This provision fails to address voters without any form of identification.

Therefore, I authored a resolution to urge the State to waive the birth certificate fee at the request of voters. This resolution gained an overwhelming 18-1 vote on the Board floor Thursday, July 28th. We are urging the State Legislature and the Governor to waive the \$20 birth certificate fee for one year. This can serve as a partnership between the State and Milwaukee County to provide a vital resource.

VOTER ID INFORMATIONAL SESSION-PART III

In March, my office partnered with The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Milwaukee Chapter to host a three part Informational Session on Voter ID. The purpose of the Informational Sessions is to educate Wisconsin Voters of the new law requiring certain identification in order to vote at their polling place, expose the devastating effects of the law and take action by taking the message to the streets. **(Continued on page 3)**

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS APPROVED

Domestic Partnership Benefits were approved by the Board of Supervisors in July. This is a move in the right direction for Milwaukee County. It is a matter of equality. It is important that Milwaukee County not treat a portion of our employees as second class citizens.

We realize, in this global economy, we must be able to compete for the best candidates. In a survey conducted by Fuel Milwaukee of MMAC, 52% of their members said they were more likely to accept a job offer if they knew that an employer offered domestic partnership benefits.

This benefit is extended to registered domestic partners of County employees, both same and opposite sex who are certified via state requirements, and their dependents. The exact cost at this time is unknown; however, the benefit does not take effect until January 1, 2012.

We have finally entered the 21st Century and got on board with the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Public Schools and the State of Wisconsin.

I would like to thank Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic for championing this resolution.

VOTER ID INFORMATIONAL SESSION TIMELINE continued...

Part I:

We invited civic engagement organizations to speak on a panel to educate the community on the new proposed bill and its components.

Part II:

To further expose the Bill and its disenfranchisement, we invited groups representing populations that would be most affected by the new law changes.

Part III:

We have taken it to the streets, getting the message out to hundreds of thousands of citizens. 100 Black Women and my office created a flyer that was distributed at Juneteenth Day. Our efforts have taken root, and organizations throughout Milwaukee County are collaborating to educate the community.

On Saturday, August 6, 100 Black Women and my office are partnering on the 2nd Annual Community Legislative Day at African World Festival. Attendees will be educated about the Voter ID law and the new requirements.

Continuing efforts are being considered.

2nd DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETING DATES

Wednesday, September 14, 6-7 p.m., McGovern Park Senior Center, 4500 W. Custer Ave.

Wednesday, October 12, 6-7 p.m., Location TBD

Wednesday, November 9, 6-7 p.m., Location TBD

(Watch for Fall newsletter for locations)

SUPERVISOR HARRIS IN THE COMMUNITY



Supervisor Harris cut the ribbon at the Eisenhower Center's newly-paved parking lot



Supervisor Harris, Alderman Wade and community members at the 2nd District Concert in the Park at McGovern Park



Supervisor Harris speaks on the Voter ID Law at Community Brainstorming



Supervisors Harris, Haas, and Dimitrijevic accept a rebate check from Focus on Energy at the Milwaukee County Zoo

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Dear Friends,

I trust you are having an eventful and safe summer. Since I was sworn last summer, I have worked tirelessly fighting for issues affecting Milwaukee County, locally and statewide. As promised, I have kept my finger on the pulse of our district through monthly town hall meetings. Thank you for making your voices heard and coming out to learn about how I am battling every day to make sure our families have a better quality of life. It is my pleasure to serve you.

Nikiya Harris, Supervisor 2nd District